



Hello Friends,

Next week citizens throughout the **30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and California** will be asked to make a number of decisions that will affect us in dramatic ways. **On February 5, we will head to the polls to vote** on a long list of **Propositions** that may profoundly impact our State and how it is governed and financed. Equally important, many of us will have the opportunity to cast our first vote in determining who will become the **next President of the United States**.

Regardless of your political affiliation and your stance on the various measures on this year's ballot, I urge you to vote. Whether you send in an **absentee ballot**, or prefer to go to the **polls**, you have the wonderful opportunity to be heard and weigh in on major decisions. It is your voice, your vote. You can make a difference.

Exercise your right to vote. And proudly serve as a role model for your family and neighbors during this critical election time.

For additional information on candidates, initiatives, registration, and polling places, visit the Secretary of State's website at: [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections.htm)

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### **What's Happening in Sacramento**

January marked an extremely busy month for legislators and staff, as a number of key deadlines occurred over the past two weeks. **January 18** marked the last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in their respective House in 2007. **January 25** marked the last day for any committee to hear and report to both the Assembly and Senate Floors bills introduced in their respective house in 2007. **January 29** marked the last day in the Assembly to submit amendments. And, **January 31** marked the final day for each House to pass bills introduced their respective House in 2007. Needless to say, the past couple of weeks were some of the most critical in the legislative process.

The United States Department of Agriculture's **Census of Agriculture** is taken every five years. The census strives to represent a complete and accurate count of U.S. farms and ranches, and the

people who operate them. This information is a valuable tool used by policymakers to examine land use trends, ownership, production practices, income, expenditures, and many other characteristics that public policy may impact. I encourage you, if you not have already, to visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or your USDA county office and let your interests be represented in the 2007 census. It is important for all of our state's farmers, large and especially small, to participate in order to demonstrate California's abundance and diversity. This information is also used during disasters for federal assistance, as well as for other programs. **If you have questions, please ask your USDA county staff at (559) 276-7494 in Fresno County, (559) 582-1071 in Kings County, and (661) 336-0967 in Kern County.**

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### **My Legislative Highlights**

Thank you to the **California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA)** for presenting me with one of their **"Outstanding Assemblymember for 2007"** awards. The CSSA recognized me for my advocacy and **support of law enforcement through Kern, Kings, Fresno, and Tulare counties**, and throughout the state. [www.calsheriffs.org](http://www.calsheriffs.org)

I was honored to receive the **"Legislator of the Year"** award from the **California Forestry Association** at their annual meeting. I participated in a number of information events and have come to appreciate the role California's forests play in both their commitment to a sustainable future and the products they generate for our state. [www.foresthealth.org](http://www.foresthealth.org)

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### **Constituents Visit Sacramento**

**Michael Clark, Executive Director of Kern Regional Medical Center and Jim Baldwin, President of BARC in Bakersfield**, came by to discuss proposed health care reform and the potential affects of the state budget deficit on community-based programs.

**Pauline Larwood, Kern County Community College District Trustee, and representatives from the District**, visited Sacramento to talk about higher education and share their thoughts on the potential impact of the budget deficit on our valuable community colleges.

**The Fresno County Farm Bureau came to the Capitol** for a day full of meetings with key elected officials and agencies. My legislative leaders, including myself, had a chance to discuss agricultural, economic, and environmental issues with Farm Bureau. I was impressed with the team of Farm Bureau members that gave of their time to spend a worthwhile day in Sacramento.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development has conditionally reserved funding from their HOME Investment Partnerships Program to meet affordable housing needs of California families. **Awardees in the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District include: Kings and Tulare counties, and the cities of Avenal, Delano, Hanford, Huron, and Wasco. Congratulations to each of these municipalities.**

I also want to **congratulate Verdegaaal Brothers, Inc. in Hanford for receiving a job training grant.** The funding from the California Employment Training Panel will enable the company to update the skills of many of its employees to remain nationally competitive.

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### **In the District**

I enjoyed attending the **annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day breakfast in Bakersfield.** The event honored the life and contributions of Dr. King, as well as the wonderful efforts being carried out today by a number of local community leaders. In **Bakersfield**, I also attend the annual installation dinner of the **Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.** For over two decades, the Hispanic Chamber has promoted Hispanic and minority-owned businesses, and those that cater to, or employ Hispanics by being active and visible in the community and by raising the level of awareness of its member's needs in the business community.

In **Fresno County**, I met with **Dr. John Welty, President of California State University, Fresno** to discuss the current budget crisis and its impact on higher education, and to personally **congratulate the Bulldogs on their big victory in the *Humanitarian Bowl* football game!**

During a swing through **Kings County**, I had the opportunity to attend the Winter Wine Showcase, a terrific event at the **Kings County Fairgrounds sponsored by the Kings County Farm Bureau.** I met with representatives from **Cilion, a renewable fuels company** that converts corn into ethanol to power cars and trucks. I also had the chance to meet with folks to discuss issues faced by **Hmong veterans in the Valley.**

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### **Meeting Requests**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov)

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### **Internships**

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley.** Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov)

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at:

[Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov)

For Sacramento office internships contact **Derek Chernow** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at:  
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